

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An electric stapler comprising:

a driver unit including a driver and driver lifting means;

a clincher opposed to the driver, wherein sheets of paper are pinched ~~by~~ between the driver unit and the clincher, a staple is injected by driving the driver and the sheets are bound ~~by the clincher's folding to bend~~ leg portions of the staple ~~by the clincher~~;

recess grooves formed at two contiguous portions of a staple injecting port of the driver unit;

a press blade provided on a side of the clincher, wherein the press blade ~~and~~ fits the recess grooves ~~are fittable to each other~~; and

a press blade lifting means,

wherein a fold line is formed by pressing the sheets ~~by~~ between the press blade and the recess grooves by driving the press blade after ~~operating to bind the sheet~~ binding the sheets binding the sheets.

2. (Currently Amended) The electric stapler according to claim 1, wherein the ~~sheet~~ is sheets are clamped by the press blade and the driver unit by driving the press blade before ~~starting to operate to bind the sheet~~ binding the sheets and the press blade is further driven after ~~operating to bind the sheet~~ binding the sheets to form the fold line by pressing the ~~sheet by~~ between the press blade and the recess ~~groove~~ grooves.

3. (Original) The electric stapler according to claim 1, further comprising switching means for switching ON and OFF an operation of the press blade lifting means.

4. (Currently Amended) An electric stapler comprising:
a driver unit including a driver and a staple injecting port;
a clincher opposed to the driver, wherein sheets of paper are pinched ~~by~~ between
the driver unit and the clincher, a staple is injected by the driver and the sheets are bound by the
clincher's folding ~~to bend~~ leg portions of the staple ~~by the clincher~~;
recess grooves formed on the driver unit at two contiguous portions of the staple
injecting port; and
a press blade provided on the clincher, wherein the press blade is liftable to fit
with the recess grooves,
wherein a fold line is formed on the sheets by pressing the sheets ~~by~~ between the
press blade and the recess grooves by lifting the press blade.

5. (Previously Presented) The electric stapler according to claim 4, wherein the
press blade is lifted to pinch the sheets when the staple is injected, and
wherein the press blade is further lifted when the fold line is formed on the sheets.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for binding sheets of paper and forming a fold
line on the sheets comprising:
pinching sheets of paper ~~by~~ between a driver unit and a clincher;

injecting a staple by ~~the~~ a driver from a staple injecting port on the driver unit;
bending leg portions of the staple by the clincher;
lifting a press blade provided on the clincher to fit with recess grooves formed on
the driver unit at two contiguous portions of the staple injecting port;
forming a fold line on the sheets.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein, ~~in the pinching~~
step when the sheets of paper are pinched between the driver unit and the clincher, the sheets are
clamped by the press blade and the driver unit.

8. (New) The electric stapler according to claim 1, wherein the recess grooves
integrally move with the staple injecting port.

9. (New) The electric stapler according to claim 4, wherein the recess grooves
integrally move with the staple injecting port.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Figures 5, 6 and 7 have been objected to because they should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. Applicants respectfully submit herewith under separate cover three (3) sheets of replacement drawings to substitute for the originally filed drawing. Figures 5, 6 and 7 have been amended to include the legend "Prior Art", as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action.

The drawings are also objected to because they do not show a "plurality of electric staplers 1", as found on page 2 of the specification. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection.

37 C.F.R. § 1.83 requires that "[w]hen the invention consists of an improvement on an old machine the drawing must when possible exhibit ... in another view, so much only of the old structure as will suffice to show the connection of the invention therewith." (Emphasis added.) Figure 5 shows a sectional view of one of a plurality of identical staplers. The only difference between the staplers is their location along the sheet. A plurality of such staplers in a figure is not necessary to "show the connection of the invention."